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Thomas Wolsey, Legate and Reformer. By ETHELRED L. TAUNTON. (London and New York : John Lane. 1902. Pp. ix, 254.)

THE REVEREND FATHER TAUNTON, who has already made valuable and interesting contributions to the history of the Roman Catholic Church in England, has produced a work on Wolsey which is professedly a study of certain aspects of the great Cardinal's career rather than a complete biography. Leaving Wolsey the statesman almost entirely out of account, he devotes his main energies to Wolsey the churchman. While the author's enthusiasm for his subject carries him so far as to make him a special pleader, he has succeeded in calling attention to, and throwing light upon, an aspect of Wolsey's character and work which has been rather inadequately considered by modern historians. Father Taunton lays particular emphasis on the Cardinal's plans and endeavors for reforming the church in England, though the evidence which he cites fails to substantiate his somewhat extreme thesis : " that had his [Wolsey's] plans for reform not been interfered with by the Divorce, the religious history of England would have been very different. For Wolsey saw the disease and knew how to apply the remedy." The Cardinal legate's work of reform is considered under four heads : Enforcement among the clergy of a high standard of morals, discipline and duty by means of visitations ; giving them greater opportunities for education by means of new foundations ; transforming the abbeys of the larger towns into bishoprics ; guarding against heresy, but rather by increase of knowledge than by repressive violence. Wolsey's efforts in behalf of education are well known ; and the project concerning the bishoprics was a statesman-like conception later carried out, to some extent at least, by Henry VIII. and his successors. But the author fails to convince us that Wolsey was in the way of accomplishing much toward reforming the lives and discipline of the clergy. After describing a few of his efforts in this direction, mostly still-born, he leaves us nothing beyond the assertion that at the time of the Cromwellian dissolutions the monasteries included in Wolsey's legatine visitations were found to have been the best ordered of any. As to his treatment of religious innovations, the fact that he was not cruel by nature, that he was immersed in public occupations and little concerned with theological speculation, together with the fact that Protestantism had not yet grown to be a menace to the state will explain why Wolsey was no blood-thirsty heresy hunter, without ascribing to him any deep-rooted convictions on the subject. Father Taunton excuses his accumulating vast power and wealth, and even his aspirations for the papacy, on the ground that he was thus acquiring means to further his work of reforming the church. But it is open to question whether the Cardinal's motives were as unworldly as the writer would like to believe. He points, for example, to the two foundations at Oxford and Ipswich as fruits of Wolsey's right use of riches. But even if he had been able to carry out his original intentions with regard to these institutions, they

would certainly not have atoned for his notorious pluralism, and, as a matter of fact, the funds derived from the suppression of the smaller monasteries and the contributions levied from various abbeys went a long way towards covering their cost. The discussion of the divorce, written from the point of view of Wolsey, is the most successful part of the whole work. While it is not altogether "clear that the Cardinal is the only one that came out of the proceedings with clean hands," the author does succeed in showing that Wolsey's attitude was uniformly consistent, and that he was faithful to the interests of his master throughout. Although not absolutely above censure in all his dealings, he certainly shone by comparison with the other persons involved in the suit. Surveying his whole career, it would seem that Wolsey's estimate of himself in the dying words ascribed to him is the justest after all. Wolsey, the English statesman, and Wolsey, the servant of Henry VIII., was greater than Wolsey, the churchman and reformer. In conclusion, it should be said that the study is based on a wide and accurate knowledge of the sources and literature of the subject. Moreover, the author's estimates of contemporary men and events, so far as they come within the scope of his work, are sound and just. He is particularly outspoken in his denunciation of the aims and condition of the papacy and papal curia of the period. As to externals, the work is a most attractive piece of workmanship; the illustrations particularly are well selected and finely executed.

ARTHUR LYON CROSS.

La Papauté et la Ligue Française. Pierre d'Épinac, Archevêque de Lyon (1573-1599). Par l'Abbé P. RICHARD, docteur ès lettres. (Paris: Alphonse Picard et Fils; Lyons: Librairie A. Cote. Pp. xxxvii, 672.)

THIS handsome volume embodies the researches of a patient and conscientious worker, who has spared neither time nor labor in acquainting himself with the sources of the history of the second half of the sixteenth century. He has not been desirous that his readers should take his assertions upon his simple word. The bibliography is admirable. More than thirty pages are given to a valuable list of authorities in which the aim is to note, so far as possible, the precise value of each book or document. The list is one that will prove serviceable to future students. As the manuscript originals are scattered in various parts of France and even abroad, the author is at the pains to indicate not only the collections of which they form a part, but in most instances the very volumes in which they are bound up. In Paris the National Library, in its different departments, and the State Archives, including the papers of which the Spanish Archives of Simancas were despoiled, have been thoroughly explored. In Rome the despatches of the papal nuncios contained in the Vatican Library, recently thrown open to the inspection of historical scholars, rank next in importance; while the municipal and other collections of Lyons have naturally proved of great worth. The marginal notes are full and precise in their indications.